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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/539,480	06/22/2005	Peter Axelberg	1511-1040	3318
466	7590	03/19/2007	EXAMINER	
YOUNG & THOMPSON			BARAN, MARY C	
745 SOUTH 23RD STREET			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2ND FLOOR			2857	
ARLINGTON, VA 22202				
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		03/19/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/539,480	AXELBERG ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Mary Kate B. Baran	2857	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 June 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 22 June 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 22 June 2005.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to because Figures 6, 8 and 9 have unlabeled boxes. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is

requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

3. A substitute specification in proper idiomatic English and in compliance with 37 CFR 1.52(a) and (b) is required. The substitute specification filed must be accompanied by a statement that it contains no new matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1 and 10, recite the phrases, "signal processing of the current signal in such a way that only the low-frequency amplitude variations remain", "signal processing of the voltage signal in such a way that only the low frequency amplitude variations remain" and "processing of the product in such a way that a flicker power is obtained"; however, it is not clear from the claim language how the current signal, voltage signal and product are processed.

Claims 3, 4, 11 and 13, recite the phrase "filtering... the demodulated signal in such a way that only the low-frequency variations remain"; however, it is not clear from the claim language how the demodulated signal is filtered.

5. The claims are generally narrative and indefinite, failing to conform with current U.S. practice. They appear to be a literal translation into English from a foreign document and are replete with grammatical and idiomatic errors.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

6. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Pursuant to the Interim Guidelines on Patent Eligible Subject Matter (MPEP 2106), if a claim recites a judicial exception (i.e., an abstract idea, law of nature or physical phenomenon), the claims must recite either a physical transformation and/or a useful, concrete and tangible result. It is the Examiner's position that the claims are directed to abstract ideas. The claims fail to recite a transformation from one physical state to another. Further, although the claims appear useful and concrete, a tangible result is not claimed. Merely "processing the product" is not sufficient to constitute a tangible result, since the outcome of the processing step has not been used in a disclosed practical application nor made available in such a manner that its usefulness in a disclosed practical application can be realized. As such, the subject matter of the claims is not patent eligible.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hattori et al. (EP 1072897 A2) (hereinafter Hattori).

Referring to claims 1, 2, 7, 10 and 12, Hattori teaches determining the direction to a defect in a line (i.e. flickering source) in relation to a measurement point (see Hattori, page 9 lines 35-36), by measuring a current signal and a voltage signal (see Hattori, page 9 lines 40-42). The current and voltage signals are measured by a digital oscilloscope, which is capable of recording the interference waveform, and a computer (see Hattori, page 10 lines 12-14). Next, the measured current and voltage values are processed using Fourier Transform analysis (see Hattori, page 10 lines 4-6). These transformed voltage and current values are then analyzed further (using multiplication) and to both calculate an energy, or power, value (i.e. flicker power) (see Hattori, page 10 lines 35-43) and determine the direction of the power (see Hattori, page 11 lines 10-24). If calculated power assumes a positive value, then the propagation of the energy is in the same direction as the current probe apparatus, and if the calculated power assumes a negative value, then the propagation of the energy is in the opposite direction of the current probe apparatus (see Hattori, page 11 lines 10-18). The

determined direction can then be used to determine the invading route of the interference (see Hattori, page 11 lines 20-24).

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
 - (a) Allan et al. teach a method and apparatus for monitoring integrity of wires or electrical cables.
 - (b) Smith et al. teach detecting a frequency of oscillating scene illumination in electronic image capture.
 - (c) Munson et al. teach a method and apparatus for eliminating flicker effects from discharge lamps during digital video capture.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mary Kate B. Baran whose telephone number is (571) 272-2211. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marc S. Hoff can be reached on (571) 272-2216. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

6 March 2007


MARC S. HOFF
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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